A GUIDE TO LITTLE COURT



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO LITTLE COURT PRE-PREP – A VIBRANT, HAPPY ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN FLOURISH AS THEY LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE.

WELCOME TO LITTLE COURT

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WELCOME TO LITTLE COURT



WELCOME TO LITTLE COURT, Ripley Court's dedicated Pre-Prep department, where pupils thrive in a nurturing environment designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.

We provide a rich learning experience, laying strong foundations at the start of each child's educational journey. Progress is closely monitored, and teaching is tailored to ensure every child reaches their full potential, gaining the confidence and independence needed for Key Stage 2.

This guide aims to assist you in navigating day-to-day arrangements. Parents are encouraged to regularly consult our school website's online calendar for comprehensive information on upcoming events and fixtures throughout the term.



MEET THE TEAM



Miss Chapman: Head of Little Court, Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Designated Safeguarding Lead

I feel incredibly privileged to lead Little Court Pre-Prep, where each day brings new opportunities to inspire and be inspired. My teaching philosophy has been shaped by influential mentors and inspiring training over the past 16 years. I believe that learning must have a purpose and make strong links to the real world. learning must have a purpose and make strong links to the real world. I bring many aspects of the Reggio Emilia approach to my teaching style, the most significant being outdoor learning, continuous provision, and learning through shared experiences and play. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the learning experience, and making a difference.

Ripley Court School is a warm, welcoming space with a strong family ethos. It is particularly rewarding to help develop the skills and love of learning that shape the rest of the children's lives. Welcoming the children into Little Court, witnessing their progression through the school, seeing them grow in confidence, and embracing the joy of learning is a personal highlight. I continuously aspire to model and develop outstanding teaching so that all children can reach their full potential. I look forward to working with you and your child as they continue this exciting journey.

FORM TEACHERS

Reception	Mrs Fiona Boyle (Class Teacher)	boylef@ripleycourt.co.uk
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Wary	Mrs Giddey
Year 1	Miss Lizzie Maddin	maddine@ripleycourt.co.uk
Year 1 (Monday - Thursday)	Mrs Helen Gottschalk (Class Teacher)	gottschalkh@ripleycourt.co.uk
Year 1 (Friday)	Mrs Joanna Dick (Class Teacher)	dickj@ripleycourt.co.uk
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Julia Baker	
Year 2	Mrs Victoria Renolds	reynoldsv@ripleycourt.co.uk
Teaching Assistant	Mrs Daniela Tamburrini	
ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)	Mrs Ashleigh Tennent	
Head of Litt1e Court Pre-Prep	Miss Charlotte Chapman	chapmanc@ripleycourt.co.uk

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Head of Music & Drama	Mr Samuel Lom-Bray	**FoodTech**	Mrs Vanessa Gar (Year 2)
Head of Art	Mrs Kirstie Baker (Year 2)	**Head of Sport**	Mr Steve Brunning
French	Madam Karine Cliff	**Swimming**	Mrs Kim Ballantine
Forest School	Mrs Nicky Ward	**Dance**	Mrs Kelly Williams

MISSION, VALUES AND AIMS

Our Mission

To prepare children for a life filled with passion for learning, and a desire to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Our Aims

01 Provide a nurturing, inclusive and engaged community

02 Promote academic ambition and curiosity

03 Deliver outstanding co-and extra-curricular provision

Ripley Court School values

Our aims are underpinned by our values of Perseverance, Aspiration, Curiosity, and Kindness.

Our Five Year Strategic Plan - 2026 - 2031 can be found here

THE SCHOOL DAY

Breakfast Club

Pupils in Little Court Pre-Prep can attend Breakfast Club from 7:30 am – 8am, with no need for advance booking. Staff are on hand to ensure a smooth handover from parent to child.

Morning

Little Court Pre-Prep opens at 8:00 am, and all pupils should arrive by 8:30 am. Registration takes place at 8:35 am, with the register closing at 9:00 am.

If, for any reason, children arrive after 8:30 am, parents are kindly asked to make their way to the main office to register their child's attendance.

Collection

The school day ends at 3:30 pm, and parents can collect their children from their classroom door.

After School

For families with older siblings in Years 3–6, pupils can stay in Little Court until 4:00 pm (4 O'Clock Club), offering a convenient single collection. For those needing a later pick-up, our after school care, run by Après School, is available from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the Newte building, providing flexibility and peace of mind for busy parents.







THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is enriched with specialist teaching in Forest School, Swimming, Music, Dance, PE, Food Technology, and French.

From Reception, children enjoy weekly visits to the school library. In Year 1, they begin computing lessons in the IT lab, and from Year 2, they develop their creativity in specialist art sessions, with their work proudly showcased at the annual Art Exhibition. Music is taught by our Head of Music and Drama from Reception onwards, giving children a strong foundation in performance and musicianship from an early age. Every child learns to play the violin in Year 1 and the recorder in Year 2, building confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music.










PHONICS

At Ripley Court, we follow the 'Read Write Inc.' phonics and reading scheme. Each letter is paired with a picture and rhyme, making learning both memorable and enjoyable. We teach children using lowercase pure sounds, laying the foundations for strong reading and writing skills.

Phonics is taught daily, building on each child's individual progress. Children are assessed every half-term and grouped according to their developmental stage, ensuring personalised support and the right level of challenge. This approach allows pupils to progress at a pace that suits them; whether advancing to more complex concepts or reinforcing key skills in a supportive environment.

Once children confidently recognise individual letter sounds, they progress to two-letter sounds, alternative pronunciations, and key spelling rules. To reinforce learning, they receive a 'Read Write Inc.' reading book each week, introduced in daily sessions before being taken home to share with parents; an opportunity to celebrate their success and nurture a love of reading.

With solid, foundations in place, children in Little Court are well-prepared to transition confidently into Year 3.





WELLBEING & PASTORAL CARE

At Ripley Court, kindness and care start from the top and permeate every part of the school, ensuring every child feels valued. Our unique family atmosphere encourages interaction and support across all year groups. Children eagerly look forward to celebrating their birthdays at the monthly Birthday Tea with the Headmaster.

Termly Buddy Time is another cherished tradition. Older pupils from Upper Court are paired with younger children, sharing activities such as reading on World Book Day and enjoying a special Buddy Time lunch in the dining hall. This initiative fosters friendships and a strong sense of belonging.







BUBBLE TIME & ELSA SUPPORT

Emotional wellbeing is at the heart of our school ethos. Dedicated ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) sessions and our nurturing Bubble Time provide children with a safe space to express their feelings and seek support when needed.

Even our support staff know every child by name; this culture of inclusivity, warmth, and encouragement is what truly sets our School apart.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Our commitment to holistic growth is reflected in our Forest School programme. Through hands-on activities such as woodwork, fire-building and mud kitchen play, children develop resilience, self-esteem and a love for outdoor learning. Every child at Little Court enjoys weekly Forest School sessions, along with opportunities to learn and explore in our dedicated outdoor classroom and well-resourced outdoor spaces. In our vegetable garden, children dig, plant, grow, harvest and even cook with their own produce, developing a real understanding of the natural world through hands-on experiences.







MUSIC

Music is an integral part of Pre-Prep life. From Reception, children enjoy weekly lessons with our specialist music teacher, where they begin instrumental learning. All pupils in Little Court join the choir, and in Year 1, they take their first steps in violin.

Peripatetic teachers offer individual tuition, allowing children to explore almost any instrument of their choice. Half-termly Tea-Time Concerts provide even our youngest musicians with the chance to perform, while those keen to develop further can join the Ripley Court Orchestra or one of our school bands; ensuring every child has the opportunity develop their passion.



ANNUAL PRODUCTIONS

The Little Court calendar offers numerous opportunities for every child to shine.

The Little Court Nativity, held at the end of the Autumn Term, captures the festive spirit of Christmas. Every child plays a role, making it a joyous occasion for all involved. The gym is transformed into a theatre for this special performance. Parents, grandparents, family members, and friends are warmly invited to attend.

In the Summer Term, the Little Court Dance Extravaganza provides another opportunity for children to showcase their talents. With guidance from our talented dance teacher, every child takes part in this memorable event. All are invited to enjoy these captivating performances.

Please consult the calendar for updated information on event dates and times.









HOUSES & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Little Court pupils are part of the school's house system and, from Reception, can earn house points. Weekly house meetings promote teamwork and school spirit, while inter-house competitions such as Singing and Talent Shows, Pancake Flipping, Athletics Day, Cross Country, and Swimming Galas, bring excitement and friendly rivalry.






WHOLE SCHOOL & LITTLE COURT PRE-PREP ASSEMBLIES

Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 pupils join the whole-school assembly every Monday and Friday to celebrate achievements both in and out of school. Certificates and awards are presented in front of their peers, recognising their efforts.

Every week, a dedicated Little Court assembly shines a spotlight on individual successes. A 'Star of the Week' certificate honours personal accomplishments, while a 'Sunshine Behaviour' sticker rewards children who embody our three school rules: Ready, Respectful, and Safe.

EVENTS

Pre-Prep pupils are valued members of our wider school community, taking part in inter-house events such as Sports Day, swimming galas, and talent shows. We embrace school traditions, including World Book Day, STEM Week, and Activities Week. These shared experiences create lasting memories, strengthen foundations for learning and friendships, and ensure a smooth transition into Prep.







ACTIVITIES WEEK

A highlight of the school year, Activities Week, is eagerly anticipated by all. Excursions include farm visits and sometimes the zoo even comes to us! STEM Week brings exciting experiences such as a mobile planetarium, visits from Reptile World, and Mini-Bot Coding sessions.







CLUBS

A diverse range of before, during, and after-school clubs is available to Little Court children, bookable termly at an additional charge.

After-school clubs vary throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities that foster creativity, curiosity, and the discovery of new talents. These include instrumental lessons, singing coaching, athletics development, ballet, bushcraft, disco dancing, judo, secret maths, yoga, swimming, Dib Dab art, and more.

In Year 2, pupils can further enrich their learning by joining Chess Club, developing confidence and critical thinking skills. Full details can be found in the clubs' calendar












ASSESSMENTS, REPORTS, AND PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

At the start of Reception, children's abilities are assessed to identify key learning milestones. By the end of the year, their progress towards the Early Learning Goals is summarised and shared with parents.

In Year 1 and Year 2, pupils take annual standardised reading and spelling tests to track progress. During the Summer Term, they also complete standardised assessments in Mathematics and English.

Formal reports are issued twice a year, in the Autumn and Summer Terms, offering a clear overview of each child's academic journey. Parent-teacher meetings in the Autumn and Spring Terms provide valuable opportunities to discuss progress and next steps.

HOMEWORK

At Little Court, we prioritise personalised support for each child's reading development. Every pupil reads individually with a teacher regularly across the week and in groups daily, with progress recorded in their reading record.

Children take home their reading books and records each evening in their book bags. We encourage daily reading at home, with sessions logged and book bags returned to school the following day.

Reception: Children are assigned reading and phonics homework only.

Year 1: Pupils receive reading and spelling homework, along with activities to practise number bonds to 10, then 20.

Year 2: Homework includes reading, spelling, and maths to reinforce learning.

TAPESTRY (Reception)

In Reception, we use Tapestry to track children's progress through continuous observations and photos. These are regularly uploaded to the online learning journey program, offering you valuable insight into your child's time in Little Court. We encourage you to actively engage by sharing photos of memorable moments or activities that highlight your child's progress, such as cooking together, helping a sibling, or counting steps. This fosters a strong connection between home and school.

A consent form is required to create a parent account.







UNIFORMS & KIT

‘Court Seconds' is the Ripley Court Parents Teacher Association (RCPTA) second-hand uniform shop located at Ripley Court School. To purchase second-hand uniform, please email courtseconds@gmail.com
The uniform can be purchased from the Ripley Court School Shop by appointment. For enquiries, please email shop@ripleycourt.co.uk.
Place your uniform orders online **here**, or book an appointment to purchase uniform items **here**.

‘Court Seconds' is the Ripley Court Parents Teacher Association (RCPTA) second-hand uniform shop located at Ripley Court School. To purchase second-hand uniform, please email ripleyreloveduniform@gmail.com





UNIFORMS & KIT

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">BOYS</th><th colspan="2">GIRLS</th></tr>
<tr><td>Autumn / Winter</td><td>Spring / Summer</td><td>Autumn / Winter</td><td>Spring / Summer</td></tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey trousers
Long white button-up cotton shirt
Grey socks
Junior tie</td>
<td>Grey charcoal tailored shorts (no cargo shorts)
Grey ankle socks
Short sleeve white button-up cotton shirt
Junior tie</td>
<td>Grey trousers
Or RC tunic
Long sleeve white button-up cotton shirt
Grey long socks or grey tights</td>
<td>RCS Summer Dress
White ankle socks
Or grey charcoal tailored shorts (no cargo shorts)
Grey ankle socks (with shorts)
Short sleeve white button-up cotton shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">Black swimming trunks
Black flat-soled school shoes</td>
<td colspan="2">Black swimming costume
Black flat-soled school shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">BOYS AND GIRLS</td></tr>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">Grey RC jumper – worn with uniform
Blazer
Black plimsolls
Outdoor trainers
Black RC fleece for cold weather
Black RC Coat for winter
PE and Games
Green RC sweatshirt
White RC polo shirt
Black RC sweatpants
PE RC black shorts
Football boots Year 1 and 2 (velcro fastening)
Shin pads
White ankle socks PE</td>
<td colspan="2">Forest School
Waterproof dungarees (black or navy)
Wellington boots
Swimming
Green RC swim cap
RC PE/Swimming RC swimming bag
Towel
Additional items
RC book bag
Water bottle
RC green beanie
Black gloves
Black or green hair accessories</td>
</tr>
</table>

SCHOOL BAGS & STATIONERY

Each child has a bookbag, stored in their classroom, containing their reading book, reading record, and spelling/homework file. Parents are encouraged to check bookbags regularly for notes, letters, party invitations, and other communications. All necessary stationery is provided.



UNIFORM & LABELLING

Children return to school in the Autumn Term wearing their summer uniform. However, after the October half-term, when the weather changes, they transition to winter uniform. A sweater and coat should be brought for added comfort.

To ensure the safety of their belongings, it is essential to label every item of kit. We recommend stitching large labels onto each piece, including swimming trunks, towels, PE bags, and swimming bags. Wellington boots should be labelled and stored in the outdoor wellie store, while trainers and plimsolls can be placed in the children's cubbies to prevent mix-ups or loss of personal items.

PE, SPORT, & SWIMMING

Games, swimming, and PE lessons are delivered by members of the Sports Department. During these activities, class teachers supervise the children while they change.

Children need a black swimming costume, a Ripley Court swimming cap, and a towel, all kept in the school swimming bag.

The green sweatshirt is designated for PE and Games only.





FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS

Children should wear Ripley Court tracksuit bottoms with their all-in-one suit over them. Wellington boots are required and should be kept at school. During colder months, thick socks are recommended for added warmth inside the boots.

DANCE & BALLET LESSONS

Plimsolls are needed for Dance lessons, and ballet shoes are required for Ballet, which is an optional club.







FEES

Details of current fees and payment options can be found on our website **here**:



EARLY YEARS FUNDING

UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT

Reception Class Fees (Children Under 5 Claiming Funding)

For children under five in their Reception Year who are claiming the universal entitlement, please refer to the fees page on our website for the most up-to-date information **here.**

Please note that the School's approach to funding is reviewed regularly and may be adjusted in line with Department for Education guidance.





FEES & EXTRAS

The fees at Ripley Court School cover tuition, books, meals, school travel, and personal accident insurance. However, some items are considered 'extras' and are charged separately. Fees are billed in advance, while extras are billed in arrears.

Examples of Extras

In addition to standard fees, some optional services and activities incur separate charges, including:

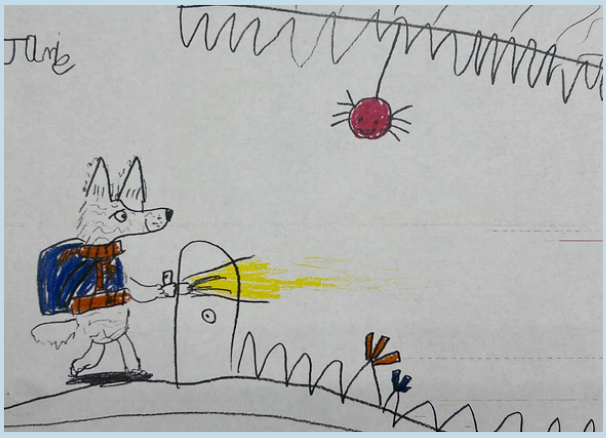
Breakfast Club: £5.25 per morning, offering a convenient early drop-off and breakfast for children.

Learning Support Tuition: Additional fees may apply if specialised learning support is required. Costs are determined based on individual needs and arrangements.

Optional School Fees Insurance: Available to cover unforeseen circumstances affecting the payment of school fees. Pricing varies based on the selected coverage and terms.

Short Trips and Outings: Some activities may have additional charges, communicated in advance based on the nature and cost of the trip.
Clubs: some are billed directly by external providers, while others are managed by the school.

These optional extras are billed separately from standard fees. Detailed information on costs and payment arrangements will be provided for each service or activity.







After School Care

The after-school care programme, run by Après School, is available from 5pm to 6pm for children in Upper Court.

The after-school care is led by Wendy and Idy, with support from Après School's General Manager, Lindsay, who oversees all the settings and provides central guidance.

Booking and Payments

Après School is an Ofsted-registered provider, and Parents can take advantage of Childcare Vouchers and the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. For assistance with these payment options, please contact Après School directly at hello@apres-school.co.uk.

Full details and prices can be found via the School's website along with details on how to book.

Collection Details

Children should be collected from the Newte Building, where a member of staff will assist with gathering belongings and signing each child out to their parent.

For more information, parents are encouraged to consult the FAQs document, which covers a range of common queries.

- For general enquiries, or to let us know about a change of circumstances, please email hello@apres-school.co.uk
- To cancel or change a booking, please do this via your account. Credit is applied automatically if 24 hours notice is given.

For feedback or concerns, feel free to reach out to the team at hello@apres-school.co.uk

ILLNESS

Young children often experience minor colds and runny noses, which may not require them to stay at home. However, if a child is unwell and unable to participate in school activities, we kindly ask that they remain at home to recover. This helps minimise the risk of spreading infections.

In the case of a fever, upset tummy, or vomiting, we request that children refrain from attending school for 48 hours after the last episode of symptoms. If a child becomes unwell during the day, parents will be contacted to arrange for them to go home. This precaution helps ensure the health and well-being of all children and staff.



KEEPING INFORMED WITH WEEKLY UPDATES

Online Calendar found in News and Events on our website provides a comprehensive list of events for the week.

The Weekly Communication is emailed to parents every Friday afternoon and includes details of the following week's arrangements, including sports fixtures, an update from the Headmaster, and any important notices. **Photos** and updated information are posted daily on the school's social media channels. Event photos can also be found in the **Photo Gallery** on our website, a secure page accessible only to parents with a password.

WEEKLY COMMS

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Open and regular communication with parents is key to ensuring the very best for every child. From the very first day, we aim to create a welcoming, family-like atmosphere where every child and every family feels valued and supported.

For day-to-day questions or concerns, your child's form teacher should always be your first point of contact. Teachers are available to speak with parents at the beginning and end of the school day.

If you need further support, Miss Chapman, Head of Little Court (chapmanc@ripleycourt.co.uk), will be happy to help. For more serious matters, or if additional support is required, parents are welcome to contact the Headmaster.



RCPTA (RIPLEY COURT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION)

We are incredibly fortunate at Ripley Court to have such a supportive and engaged parent community. The Ripley Court Parent Teacher Association (RCPTA), made up of parent and staff representatives, plays an active role in supporting the school through a variety of fundraising initiatives and community events held throughout the year. Under the capable leadership of Mrs Patrick-Abbot, our RCPTA Chair, and with the valuable support of our Parent Reps, their efforts greatly enhance school life.

Recent fundraising has contributed to the development of our Little Court Outdoor Classroom, the creation of a new STEM room, for pupils in both Little Court and Upper Court, and the purchase of 20 iPads to support and enrich learning across the school.
Parents can look forward to a calendar of events that support both fundraising and community spirit. We warmly encourage all parents to visit the RCPTA page on our website to view upcoming dates and find out how you might like to get involved. Even the smallest contribution of time or help makes a meaningful difference.

If you would like to offer your support in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the parent representative for your child's class.

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At Little Court, we treasure the opportunity to nurture each child's potential. We look forward to what lies ahead as we continue this exciting journey together.



"Since our child started at Ripley, we have seen tremendous growth in his confidence at school. He absolutely loves going in every morning, and as a result, we've seen him flourish academically. Ripley truly is a very special place — the teachers are highly competent, incredibly caring, and consistently go the extra mile to support the children. Ripley has exceeded our expectations, and we see our decision to join the school as the best academic choice we have made for our children so far." Ripley Parent